



'TIS THE SEASON FOR WAY TOO MANY ELVES

METRO TAKES A LOOK AT MOVIES OVERRUN WITH ELFIN CHARACTERS

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Idle No More, revisited

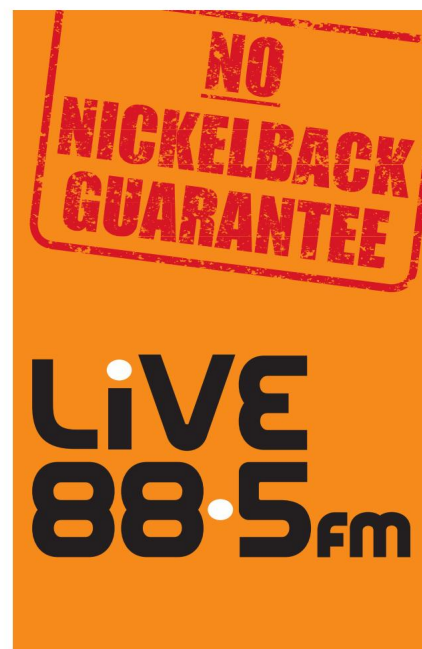
Anniversary marked with protest against education reforms, which activists say will shortchange kids, give too much power to feds

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Accolades for NHL's safety cop

Brendan Shanahan is doing a fine, fine job handling shenanigans, says league's board of governors

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'We, too, must act on behalf of justice'



U.S. President Barack Obama speaks to crowds attending the memorial service for former South African president Nelson Mandela at the FNB Stadium in Soweto near Johannesburg on Tuesday. World leaders, celebrities, and citizens from all walks of life gathered to pay respects and remember the former South African president and anti-apartheid icon. EVAN VUCCI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Memorial. Obama hails Mandela as a liberation hero at South African stadium memorial

U.S. President Barack Obama exhorted the world Tuesday to embrace Nelson Mandela's universal message of peace and justice, electrifying tens of thousands of rain-lashed spectators and prompting a standing ovation by heads of state in a South African stadium.

In a speech that received thunderous applause, Obama urged people to apply the lessons of Mandela, who emerged from 27 years in prison under a racist regime, embraced his enemies when he finally walked to freedom and promoted forgiveness and reconciliation in South Africa.

"We, too, must act on behalf of justice. We, too, must act on behalf of peace," said Obama. Obama said that when he was a student, Mandela "woke me up to my responsibilities — to others, and to myself — and set me on an improbable journey that finds me here today."

Police were expecting a crushing crowd at FNB sta-

dium, but the foul weather and public-transportation problems kept many people away.

Addressing the memorial service for Mandela, who died Thursday at age 95, Obama pointed out that "around the world today, men and women are still imprisoned for their political beliefs, and are still persecuted for what they look like, or how they worship, or who they love."

The mood was celebratory. Spectators sang praise for Mandela, seen by many South Africans as the father of the nation.

"I would not have the life I have today if it was not for him," said Matlhogonolo Mothoaga, a post-graduate marketing student who arrived hours before the stadium gates opened. "He was jailed so we could have our freedom."

Rohan Laird, the CEO of a health insurance company, said in the stadium that he grew up during white rule in a "privileged position" as a white South African and that Mandela helped whites work through a burden of guilt.

"His reconciliation allowed whites to be released themselves," Laird said. "I honestly don't think the world will see another leader like Nelson Mandela."



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Former news anchor Leigh Chapple.
COURTESY CTV

Former CTV anchor Chapple dead at 58

Retired newscaster Leigh Chapple, who anchored the CTV late-night news for over 30 years, died Tuesday.

The longtime broadcaster retired from her post in May 2012, after a 36-year career in Ottawa, to spend more time with her husband, Dean Holmes. On Tuesday morning

Holmes found his wife without vital signs at their Cork Street home. She was 58 years old.

CTV's News at Six anchor Carol Anne Meehan told Metro Tuesday that the whole station was in shock at the news.

"The people here at the station are just devastated," Meehan said, adding her news

team has been flooded with emails and comments about how much Chapple will be missed.

"She was a wonderful, wonderful woman to work with. She was always professional, kind and genuine, and that's what made her so loved."

Former colleague and re-

tired anchor Max Keeping first hired Chapple as his assistant.

"When you checked with Leigh, it was OK to go to bed tightly," Keeping said. "She loved what she did. She's gone so early and unfairly."

Police say the cause of death remains unknown.

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

Cops probe link between accused killer, unsolved Gatineau murder

Kelly Morrisseau death.

Police say Ottawa man charged with killing two women, assaulting another is a 'person of interest'

naked and stabbed body was found in Gatineau Park on Dec. 10, 2006 was sent to a lab in Montreal a couple of months ago. Investigators are looking to see if there is a link to Leduc.

Tuesday was the seventh anniversary since Morrisseau's death.

Lanthier said Gatineau police became interested in Leduc after he was charged by Ottawa police. He stressed, however, that Leduc is not considered a suspect.

"He's still considered a person of interest," said Lanthier.

Results from Montreal are not expected until the new year, he added.

Gatineau police contacted Morrisseau's family to advise them of these recent developments in the investigation.

Leduc is also awaiting trial on charges of sexual assault, sexual assault with a weapon, forcible confinement, and other offences stemming from an alleged attack at knifepoint on a woman in her home on Nov. 2, 2012.



JOE LOFARO

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Gatineau police investigating the unsolved 2006 murder of 27-year-old Kelly Morrisseau are looking to see if there are links between that case and a man accused of murder in the deaths of two Ottawa women.

Marc Leduc was charged in February with first-degree murder in the June 2008 death of Pamela Kosmack, 39, and the September 2011 death of Leanne Lawson, 23. He is still awaiting trial.

Gatineau police spokesperson Const. Pierre Lanthier said Tuesday DNA evidence recovered where Morrisseau's



Fatal car crash on Hwy. 416

OPP investigate a two-vehicle collision on Hwy. 416 southbound near West Hunt Club in Ottawa on Tuesday. A 66-year-old man was declared dead on scene, and a woman was taken to hospital via air ambulance in critical condition with a serious head injury, paramedics said. The Southbound lanes of Highway 416 were closed for several hours. MIKE CARROCCETTO/FOR METRO

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A group of Idle No More protesters make their way up to Parliament Hill on Tuesday. DENIS ARMSTRONG/METRO

Year later, Idle No More march attracts smaller protest group

Dwindling. Last year, Idle No More protests attracted thousands marching down Wellington Street to Parliament Hill, with police escorts

On the one-year anniversary of Idle No More, the aboriginal-rights movement, about 50 activists marched from Victoria Island to Parliament Hill to protest a reform plan for aboriginal schools.

"It's not only an issue of saying 'We don't accept, we want the (Indian) Act kicked out,'" said Chief Gilbert Whiteduck of the Maniwaki First Nation. "Unless we develop it, what little we have now is leading to ... extermination and termination."

Quoted

"We have to talk about treating Canadians fairly, regardless of the communities they're in."

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau

Protesters drummed, chanted and waved flags, saying Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt has ignored the educational demands of First Nations.

They said the proposed First Nations Education Act fails to provide adequate funding and gives too much power to Ottawa and not enough to aboriginal peoples.

"Nobody can put us in line. These are our children," said Whiteduck.

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau said Valcourt's proposed plan fails to address the mas-

sive education funding disparity between aboriginal and non-aboriginal children.

"We have to talk about treating Canadians fairly, regardless of the communities they're in," Trudeau said.

"We need to make sure we are funding First Nations education to the same level, if not more, depending on the circumstances and the needs, that we do any other Canadians."

Valcourt said he will continue to work with the Assembly of First Nations.

Last year, Idle No More protests attracted thousands marching down Wellington Street to Parliament Hill, with police escorts.

Other speakers at Tuesday's protest included Chief Theresa Spence, who launched a protest last year, and NDP MP Romeo Saganash.

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Committee OK's plans for 10-unit building with 3 parking spaces

186 James St.

Neighbours upset
about larger building's
impact on already-
small parking inventory

Opposition

**"I'm very disappointed
because publicly owned
streets should be for the
public."**

Coun. Diane Holmes

MOLLY AMOLI
K. SHINHAT
ottawa@metronews.ca

After a contentious and heated debate, Ottawa's planning committee approved an application by Eli Tannis to convert a three-unit building to a 10-unit one, with a contribution of cash in lieu of providing two extra parking spaces at 186 James St.

The city's parking department had recommended the application be rejected.

An opponent of the development, Brendan Hennigan, of Friends of James and Bay, said the conversion itself is too big for the lot. Hennigan isn't alone —

many opponents and members of Hennigan's group are longtime residents who live in the vicinity and belong to the group.

The conversion was described as counter to heritage preservation and a "quintupling of density" by opponents. Five presentations opposing the application were made.

Ironically, Tannis made a presentation to the same committee earlier on the 236 Richmond Rd. development, asking in that instance that the committee preserve the existing low-rise neighbourhood.

"I'm very disappointed because publicly owned streets should be for the

public," Coun. Diane Holmes said after the meeting.

"It's a constant complaint" from constituents and intensification makes it worse, she added.

The approval by the committee came with some strings. Because of the building's heritage value, the building's owner must enter into a legal agreement with the city so that his adherence to plans filed can be monitored, with approval by the general manager of planning and growth management, as well as Coun. Holmes.

Also, the owner is obliged to pay \$8,558 to a fund to fix up McNabb park instead of paying into the typical city cash-in-lieu-of-parking fund.

"The city uses very nice language about co-operation and consulting," Hennigan said. "But when push comes to shove it means nothing. In all the great cities, there are limits to development."



Mandela in Ottawa: Memories of an icon

Teena Hendelman holds up a photo of her meeting late South African president Nelson Mandela during his visit to Ottawa on Sept. 24, 1998. On his second visit to Canada, Mandela became an honorary companion of the Order of Canada, and visited the National Human Rights Monument after accepting an invitation from the Canadian Tribute to Human Rights organization. Hendelman, who was a board member at the time of his visit, gathered with about a dozen other people at the Ottawa monument Tuesday to remember Mandela after he was memorialized by thousands at a service in a soccer stadium in Soweto, South Africa. JOE LOFARO/METRO

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Chris Knight says he has been waiting nearly five years for his new food and lifestyle television network, **Gusto TV**. CONTRIBUTED

New TV network goes for the Gusto

Local flavour. Ottawa industry vet launches independent food, lifestyle channel



JOE LOFARO
joe.lofaro@metronews.ca

Chris Knight has been waiting nearly five years for his new food and lifestyle television network, **Gusto TV**, to launch nationally in Canada, and on Wednesday that vision will come to fruition.

And the Ottawa industry veteran feels pretty darn lucky to be able to say that.

"(It's) very, very rare that a

small, private company gets to launch a national television network," said Knight Tuesday. "Being a small, independent broadcaster in Canada is a very, very rare thing these days."

Gusto TV will make its debut to 2.2 million Bell customers beginning Wednesday at 7 p.m. The network will feature prime-time cooking and culinary travel shows, and evening features on everything from fashion to health.

Knight is the CEO of Knight Enterprises, which is headquartered in Ottawa. His work may be familiar to fans of Food Network Canada programs like *The Great Canadian Cooking Show* and *Road Grill*. But **Gusto TV**, he says, is something that's missing from Canadian TV.

"I think that food and cooking shows is a genre that's sort of been abandoned by the other channels as they try and do game shows and contests," he said. "We're filling a much-loved niche that nobody else is doing right now (in Canada)."

Viewers can feast their eyes on everything from Martha Stewart's *Cooking School* to Carlo Rota's cross-country gastronomical adventures in *The Edible Road Show*.

For Knight, this is just the beginning. In the New Year, the network plans to put out a casting call for local personalities or chefs to appear on **Gusto TV**.

"There's lots of talent we have our eye on here in Ottawa that we are going to approach," said Knight.

Cold nights, warm beer



Chelsea Pub co-owner **Nicolas Cazalais** speaks at the announcement of the **Winter Beerfest** in Gatineau Tuesday.

DENIS ARMSTRONG/FOR METRO

This February will be cooler than usual when Gatineau's annual **Winter Beerfest** turns the Canadian Museum of Civilization's Canada Hall into a hip, winter chalet Jan. 30 and Feb. 1.

Lovers of beer and food will mingle over Quebec microbrewery beers, gourmet appetizers by Museum head chef Martin de Board and a bonfire with hot beer, beavertails and blankets to cuddle under.

"The vibe is relaxed pleasure; it's a good night to socialize," said Beerfest co-creator Alex Van Dieren. "We're updating a Quebec tradition of enjoying the winter. By the middle of the winter, you feel stuck in the house and want to

do something. What better way to pass a cold night than over a warm beer?"

The event appeals to people looking to sample some of the many new brands of beers coming from Quebec's fast-growing microbrewery industry.

"It's a wine tasting for Outaouais microbreweries in an iconic Quebec setting," said the Museum's president and CEO Mark O'Neill. "In three short years, **Winter Beerfest** has become critically important to our regional tourism. It connects us with a wider Outaouais community."

More info can be found at festibieredhiver.com.

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Ford stands by word he didn't want to say

'Beyond the pale.'

Toronto mayor doubles down on insinuation about Star reporter

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford refused Tuesday to apologize or explain televised comments in which he appeared to accuse a reporter of being a pedophile.

"I stand by my words, what I said with Conrad Black," Ford said at a news conference. "I stand by every word I said."

Black had asked Ford in the Monday-night interview about media intrusion on his family's privacy, and Ford singled out Toronto Star reporter Daniel Dale for an incident in 2012.

"Daniel Dale is in my back-

Quoted

"It is unpleasant when the mayor of the biggest city in Canada essentially accuses you ... (of being a) pedophile."

Toronto Star reporter Daniel Dale

yard taking pictures. I have

little kids. He's taking pictures of little kids," Ford said. "I don't want to say that word but you start thinking what this guy is all about."

Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly, who has assumed most of the mayor's powers, denounced Ford's statement.

"It goes beyond the pale and I think there should be an apology for that," Kelly said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Conrad Black, left, interviews Rob Ford on his show on Vision TV. CONTRIBUTED



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Fredericton

Pot-smoking Mountie charged with assaulting fellow officer

The Public Safety Department for Fredericton, N.B., says a Mountie who complained about not being able to smoke medicinal marijuana on the job was subdued with a stun gun and charged with assaulting another RCMP officer.

Alycia Morehouse, a spokeswoman for the department, says Cpl. Ron Francis is undergoing a

psychiatric assessment after he was arrested last week. He is due back in provincial court on Jan. 6.

An RCMP spokeswoman says the Mounties were concerned about Francis's well-being when they found him Friday on a street in downtown Fredericton.

Morehouse says the RCMP called Fredericton police for help because the city is not within RCMP jurisdiction.

She says Francis was hit with a stun gun at one point, but she couldn't offer further details, saying the matter is before the courts. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Alice Munro's Nobel Prize accepted by daughter Jenny

Jenny Munro, daughter of the 2013 Nobel Prize Laureate in Literature Alice Munro, receives the Nobel in her place from Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf in Stockholm Tuesday. Alice Munro, a Canadian short-story legend, is only the 13th woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize in literature, and the first Canadian-based author to receive it. FRANK AUGSTEIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro

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metronews.ca
 Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Canadians pay tribute to a 'giant of history'

South Africa.

Memorial was more a celebration than a funeral, says Harper

A teeming, colourful sea of mourners danced and sang under a cold, exhilarating South African downpour Tuesday as tens of thousands of people — including political leaders from around the world — gathered to celebrate the life of Nelson Mandela.

A powerful coalition of politically diverse emissaries from across Canada was on hand for the four-hour ceremony, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper and four of his predecessors: Jean Chretien, Kim Campbell, Brian Mulroney and Joe Clark.

"Today was more a celebration than a funeral," Harper said as the ceremony came to a close. "A celebration of a very long life, but a very important life."

He called Mandela "one of the giants of history."

A steady, cold rain appeared to keep many away from the Soweto soccer stadium, where those who did brave the elements heard stirring calls to action from the likes of U.S. President Barack Obama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.



Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife, Laureen, stand next to Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto Tuesday in Johannesburg, South Africa, during the memorial for Nelson Mandela. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chretien said the exuberance made it unlike any memorial he has seen.

"It is a great occasion of respect because he's admired by everybody," he said.

Campbell said on Twitter: "We are cold, wet but still exhilarated!"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Let it rain

"In our culture the rain is a blessing. Only great, great people are memorialized with it."

Harry Tshabalala, a driver for the justice ministry in South Africa

Sign of a thaw? Obama shakes hands with Cuban leader during memorial

President Barack Obama shook hands with Cuban President Raúl Castro Tuesday at a memorial service for Nelson Mandela, a simple gesture that signalled possible thawing between the leaders of two Cold War foes.

The brief encounter between the U.S. and Cuban presidents came during a ceremony that celebrated the former South African president's legacy of reconciliation. Obama was greeting a line of world leaders attending the memorial in Johannesburg before delivering his own eulogy in which he urged a new generation to embrace Mandela's life work as their own.

Obama adviser Ben Rhodes said the handshakes with Castro and other world leaders weren't planned in advance and didn't involve any substantive discussion, but were simply an exchange of greetings as the U.S. leader made his way to the podium to speak.

Still, more than half a century after the U.S. cut off diplomatic relations with Cuba, such exchanges between American and Cuban leaders are exceedingly rare. U.S. officials often have gone to great lengths to avoid having presidents meet Cuban leaders, even in passing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



U.S. President Barack Obama shakes hands with Cuban President Raúl Castro in Soweto, South Africa. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

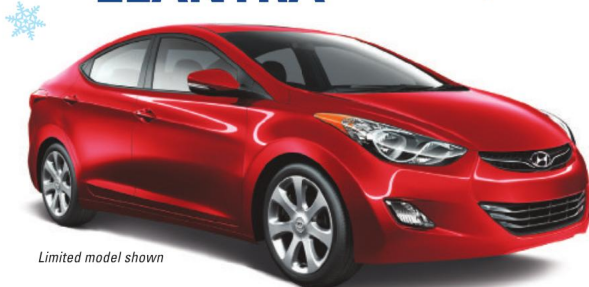


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Altruism? Silicon Valley fights to protect personal data ... and the bottom line

Even as Silicon Valley speaks out against the U.S. government's surveillance methods, technology companies are turning a handsome profit by mining personal data and peering into people's online habits.

The industry's profit machine has become tarnished by revelations that the National Security Agency digs deep into the everyday lives of Web surfers. As a result, companies including Apple, Facebook, Google, Microsoft and Yahoo are becoming more aggressive in their attempts to counter any perception that they voluntarily give the government access to users' email and other sensitive information.

Advertising dollars

At stake is the trust of massive online audiences that attract digital advertising. As companies collect personal data and learn more about each user's interests and habits, advertising becomes easier to sell.

Microsoft's general counsel, Brad Smith, said in a blog post last week that the U.S. government's online surveillance efforts "threaten to seriously undermine confidence in the security and privacy of online communications."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Fans funnel hot air from the computer servers at a Google data center. Google and other tech giants have voiced concern about government surveillance.

CONNIE ZHOU/GOOGLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Market Minute



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Lululemon Athletica Inc. founder Chip Wilson is stepping down as chairman of the board after making controversial remarks regarding women's bodies. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Namaste: Founder of Lululemon out after latest blunder

Stretching in new directions. The Vancouver-based company names a new CEO as it moves on from its annus horribilis

Lululemon Athletica named a new chief executive Tuesday and announced founder Chip Wilson is stepping down as chairman as the athletic clothing retailer looked to put a difficult 2013 behind it.

The changes mark the end

Sheer madness

"Quite frankly, some women's bodies just actually don't work for it."

Lululemon founder Chip Wilson, in an interview last month ignited a storm of criticism by suggesting to Bloomberg TV that production issues may not be the only issue regarding the sheerness of its Luon yoga pants.

of the five years of dramatic growth of the Vancouver-based company with Wilson and outgoing CEO Christine Day at the helm.

The company said Tuesday that Laurent Potdevin will take

over as chief executive next month. Potdevin, who began his career at luxury retailer LVMH, most recently served as president of Toms Shoes.

Day has overseen the company's expansion beyond yoga clothes to all manner of workout gear, more than tripling the company's share value since she took over as chief executive in 2008.

However, Lululemon has struggled this year with its first major stumble when it pulled its black Luon pants from store shelves after customer complaints that the pants were too sheer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Got the maximum

Exec jailed after selling faulty breast implants

A French businessman who sold tens of thousands of breast implants filled with industrial-grade silicone and prone to leaks was convicted of fraud on Tuesday and sentenced to the maximum four years in prison.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cultural Institute Lab

France turns nose up at Google amid privacy row

France's culture minister has snubbed the launch of Google's latest project, the Paris-based Cultural Institute Lab over a row about privacy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mary Barra

GM names first woman to head a U.S. car company

General Motors picked Mary Barra, its product development chief and a 33-year company veteran, as its next CEO. She will become the first female head of a major U.S. car company. GM said Tuesday Barra, 51, will replace Dan Akerson. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Mary Barra THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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HYPNAGOGIA SOUNDS LIKE A SNOOZE

OK, it's time to get up close and personal.

Do you take naps?

I'm not sure what prompted that question, but it occurred to me during a session in the "thinking chair" in my office.

Some of my best ideas happen in the thinking chair, usually just before someone starts snoring and the walls start to reverberate. If I ever find out who's doing it...

Turns out I'm not the only one who becomes inspired in that twilight zone between sleeping and waking, that place where you're starting to dream but haven't fallen asleep yet.

That state, which is called hypnagogia, was visited frequently by Edison, Einstein, Aristotle and Spanish surrealist painter Salvador Dali.

So, napping is not a sign of increasing senility, but a powerful creative tool. Hence the term "power nap." Superman prob-



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

ably knocks off a few power Z's when he's all cosy in the Fortress of Solitude. Nobody calls Superman senile, although there is that giant S on his chest.

There is some research to suggest power naps help prevent heart attacks, although that could be because people who engage in cardiovascular exercise have a tendency to get calm and drowsy after their workout. The jury is still out... like a light.

If you've tried power napping and only end up feeling groggy afterwards, it's probably because you're not doing it right. I know, I know, what's to learn? Close your eyes, count to 10... how long was I out?

If you go past Hypnagogia Land into the realms of deeper sleep lasting longer than 20 minutes, that's not good, as you could end up with sleep inertia, which makes you groggy and grumpy.

Dali, he of the hypnagogic melting clocks, had a trick that prevented him from succumbing to the rapture of the depths. He would hold a key in his right hand, which he would then dangle over a plate. As soon as he started to heed the call of the Sandman, the key would drop out of his hand and clatter on the plate. Then he'd be up, refreshed, and back to his melting clocks. He called it "just the necessary amount of repose."

If you're still worried what everyone will think if you catnap at the controls of your 747, remember that entire cultures are based on the nap, only they call it the siesta, which sounds poetic. People who take siestas never drool, for example.

The siesta is associated with the twin drivers of leisurely noontime meals and warm summer afternoons characteristic of Mediterranean climates, but you can try it here too, where it's all fast food and frost.

And if you start to do your best work immediately after a power nap, remember that it worked for Edison and Einstein. OK, maybe you have to try a little harder.

Five more minutes?

ZOOM

It lights up a horse's behind



REX FEATURES

Safety first with glitzy horse lights

A California-based firm has invented the first safety lighting for horses. Tail Lights are LED lights that drape through a horse's tail to provide a safe way to warn motorists of a horse and its rider. They are the brainchild of Sami Gros, who developed the idea after her friend was almost killed when a car struck her horse. **METRO**

Founder says



"It all began following a life-threatening accident. Despite using reflective gear, the horse ridden by my friend was hit from behind by a car as we were approaching the barn around dusk."

Sami Gros, founder of Tail Lights

'An attractive visual presence on the road'

The system consists of six water-resistant LED strips in the shape of a horse's tail. The LED strands are attached to the base of the tail by a specially designed neoprene tail wrap. According to its designers, the lights do not emit heat, are water resistant and allow for free movement of the tail — and make "an attractive visual presence on the road." **METRO**



A Kickstarter campaign was launched to raise the \$100,000 needed to make the innovation widely available.

COURTESY TAIL-LIGHTS.COM

Clickbait



LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online



COURTESY BOOMF

As the holiday shopping season descends on us all, Metro has a few ideas on what to get that person in your life who lives on social media. Here are some sites that will take your Instagram photos and turn them into Insta-gifts.

Printstagram (printstagr.am)

A one-stop shop for turning your favourite social media photos into everything from cards, to posters or stickers.

Stitchtagram (stitchtagram.com):

Based in Washington, D.C., this company lets you design pillows, bags and purses using your Instagram snapshots.

Boomf (boomf.com):

This site will literally print Instagram photos onto bite-sized marshmallows (pictured) and deliver them to your door. What else would you expect from a company whose tagline is "turn your memories into magical morsels?"

Twitter



@metropicks asked: "We will never see the likes of Nelson Mandela again," Barack Obama said at Mandela's memorial. Who do you think will be the next Mandela?"

@WTarcisio: No one will replace Nelson Mandela and also Michael Jack-

son, Ayrton Senna and Elvis Presley.

@MA6hp: According to @kanyewest he is new #Mandela.

@flarkcon: That's ironic

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

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2
SCENEForget Middle-earth, movies
are overrun with strange elves

New movies. From the North Pole to Nazi Germany to stories that go nowhere, the elfin character gets lots of play on screen



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

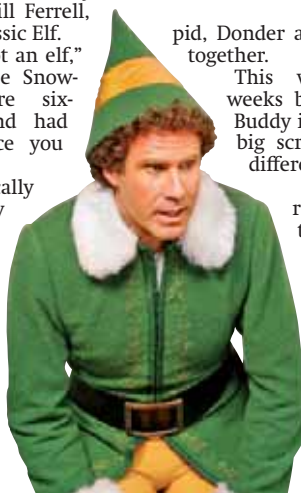
When we think of elves at this time of year visions of Santa's helpers fill our heads.

The cute, industrious and diminutive creatures from the North Pole can be seen everywhere in December in Christmas TV specials, greeting cards and movies like *Arthur Christmas* and *Santa Claus: The Movie*.

One of the most famous movie elves is Buddy, played by Will Ferrell, in the neoclassic *Elf*.

"You're not an elf," says Leon the Snowman. "You're six-foot-three and had a beard since you were 15."

So technically he's not really an elf, just a human raised by elves, but he has more Christmas spirit than Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cu-



Will Ferrell became a neoclassic elf in the Christmas movie *Elf*. CONTRIBUTED

pid, Donder and Blitzen put together.

This weekend, just weeks before Dec. 25, Buddy is joined on the big screen by a very different kind of elf.

"She's slightly reckless and totally ruthless and doesn't hesitate to kill."

That's how Evangeline Lilly describes the 600-year-old

"she-elf" Tauriel from this weekend's *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*.

The bow-and-arrow wielding character is new to the J.R.R. Tolkien movie franchise, created by director Peter Jackson and his co-writers Fran Walsh and Philippa Boyens.

"She's our redhead," says Boyens.

"We created her for that reason. To bring that energy into the film, that feminine energy. We believe it's completely within the spirit of Tolkien."

Buddy and Tauriel are just two of the many kinds of movie elves.

Elves (or Gelfling as they're called in the flick), are the main focus of the Jim Henson film *The Dark Crystal*.

Dobby the House Elf was voted the No. 1 favourite magical creature in the *Harry Potter* series by NextMovie.com and *Thor: The Dark World* featured Dark Elves, an ancient race of dangerous beings whose spaceships are powered by black holes.

The cheese-ball B-movie *Elves* features the tag line, "They're Not Working for Santa ... Anymore."

Well, if not Santa, then

who?

Nazis, that's who.

Finally Tom Cruise sorted with an elf named Honeythorn Gump in *Legend*, the Ridley Scott film *The New York Times* called "a slapdash amalgam of Old Testament, King Arthur, *The Lord of the Rings* and any number of comic books."

Swiss actor David Bennett played the feisty elfin sidekick who not only is the protector of the world's last two unicorns but, along with elves Screwball, Brown Tom and Oona, helps Cruise's character save the world from the nasty Lord of Darkness (Tim Curry).

'We're being pretty generous with one year'



Peter Jackson.
MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Interview. Director of *The Hobbit* trilogy understands why fans might be upset by this edition's cliffhanger but points to others who have done worse



NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

While the first *Hobbit* film turned in huge business at

the box office, Peter Jackson faced some harsh criticism from fans and reviewers with his return to Middle-earth. And as much as he would have liked to course-correct, there wasn't much wiggle room going into the second installment.

"There wasn't really any ability to respond too much because we had already shot everything pretty much, apart from the 10 weeks of pick-ups we did this year, which half of that was the third movie," he says.

"By the time we were done

with pick-ups I was just getting in my groove."

Some things have changed this year, though. From Jackson and the film company.

There's less chest-pumping about high frame rates — in fact Jackson and company apparently aren't eager to bring up 48 frames per second this time around, though it will be offered at select screenings.

And the story is bigger, with more interweaving plot threads. But with the latest installment, Jackson is well aware some viewers might

find its cliffhanger ending a bit unsatisfying, with a full year to wait for the conclusion.

"We did have a discussion about it. It was just a chance that was very rare where you do films back to back, three films back-to-back, to be able to end on a cliffhanger," he says.

"I remember when I was 17, 19 years old, I remember the big *Empire Strikes Back* cliffhanger. It was, like, three years before the next one came out. We're being pretty generous with one year."

Luke Evans no longer waiting in the wings

New movie. His work as Bard the Bowman was shot ages ago but it's just finally coming to audiences with the latest installment of *The Hobbit*



NED
EHRBAR

Metro World News in Hollywood

Last year, as the first *Hobbit* installment raked in more than \$1 billion worldwide, Welsh actor Luke Evans sat quietly by as Martin Freeman, Sir Ian McKellen and Richard Armitage got all the attention, since his work as Bard the Bowman wouldn't turn up until the second film, *The Desolation of Smaug*.

Well, Evans has to wait no longer.

After three *Lord of the Rings* films and the first *Hobbit*, it's kind of a foregone conclusion that New Zealand is a beautiful place, isn't it?

Yeah, I think we need to just



Luke Evans finally shows up in *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*. CONTRIBUTED

give up now. We all know this. Maybe we should just say, 'Actually, it's a s—hole,' (laughs). No, it's great. The Kiwis, they're very proud of their country and how they've preserved it in a really beautiful way, especially the South Island. It's so

unspoiled.

You filmed your part before even the first *Hobbit* had come out. What was it like last year watching the reactions and box office come in for that one, knowing that to audiences you still

weren't quite a part of it?

It was enjoyable, but it was also a bit of, 'Aw, shame I'm not part of this,' you know? But I've been very patient, I've bided my time, and now my turn has come and now I'm in the story and I'm not going anywhere now, I'm

here till the end. But it was exciting to watch.

Do you have an action figure yet?

I have a Lego character, that's quite cool. It's not so much action, he can't bend his arms, but he looks quite

Unboxing

"I have a Lego character, that's quite cool."

Luke Evans
Talking about getting an action figure in his image

cool. And he has a Lego Lake-town as well, and a little plastic bow and arrow. And he's got a really angry face.

So you didn't have any input on the Lego face?

No, no, obviously not. But it's great. I mean, it's a lovely thing, isn't it? That's the fun thing about being part of something as big as *The Hobbit*, things like that happen. Apparently Denny's, the cafe, have a whole Lake-town menu. They have, like, the Bard's Brew and the Bowman's Pumpkin Pie. I'm tempted to go down there and order it all and just sit there munching through a Denny's breakfast.

I wouldn't recommend that, actually.

No, no, of course.

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The Word

Tila Tequila
takes a turn
for the worseTHE
WORDDorothy Robinson
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Last year, Tila Tequila was rushed to the hospital for some terrible reason or another (news sites said it was either a brain aneurysm, a drug overdose or a suicide attempt). Radar Online claimed a brain aneurysm made her “think irrationally” and ingest “two bottles of unspecified heavy prescription drugs.” Sources told Radar Online that as a result of whatever happened, she probably suffered “permanent brain damage.”

Well, that alleged brain damage may have been on display early Monday morning with the faded reality TV star posting some crazy-pants rants on Facebook (over 12 in a 24-hour period). So crazy, it is hard to write about it in a sensible manner.



“I never said I hated anyone, but just because I feel sympathy, compassion, and forgiveness for others such as Hitler means I am now a monster? All for trying to open your eyes to the truth that Hitler was NOT as bad as he was painted out to be?” she wrote. She then posted a photo to prove that “EVERY ETHNIC PERSON WAS INVOLVED IN WWII... NOT JUST GERMAN PEOPLE!” See? Crazy.

“Blacks, Asians, Jews,

Middle Easterners and so on... ALL WERE NAZIS!!! But did you ever hear about this? NO! Because the Zionist Cabal doesn't want you to know the truth but I will speak the truth for GOD since NO ONE ELSE HAS THE BALLS TO!”

Well then!

Crazy online ranting is nothing new to Tequila this week. Over the weekend, she first raised eyebrows when she blamed Paul Walker's death on a “ritualistic murder” rather than what it was — a tragic car accident.

“I believe I am the only person on this entire planet who knows what happened I have just kept my mouth shut because there is a lot more to it and of course ... cases like this,” Tila wrote about the mysterious case of Elisa Lam, a 21-year-old University of British Columbia student whose body was found in a water tank at a downtown Los Angeles hotel this year.

She then equated that death with Walker's. “I just did not want to draw any attention to myself but I know exactly why they did it and yes it was indeed a ritualistic murder. Just like Paul Walker's.”

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



Harry Styles. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Harry and hook-up hang
out in Hell's Kitchen

Maybe Harry Styles and Kendall Jenner were looking for an under-the-radar place to hang out, but a gay bar in New York City clearly wasn't it. After Styles' Saturday Night Live performance with One Direction, he and his rumoured girlfriend had a busy night of party-hopping, stopping for

a bit at Hell's Kitchen gay bar Therapy, according to E! News. A source says Styles and Jenner “were having a great time” and “for sure looked like they were a couple. They had a blast.” The fact that Styles is 19 and Jenner is 18 — and the drinking age in the U.S. is 21 — didn't seem to factor into their having a blast.

Perry pans parents'
presidential politics

Katy Perry tries to not let politics come between her and her conservative parents — except when an invitation to Barack Obama's inauguration is involved. “My parents are Republicans, and I'm not,” she tells Marie Claire. “They didn't vote for Obama, but when I was asked to sing at the inauguration, they were like, ‘We can come.’ And I was like, No, you can't. I love you so much, but that — on principle.” They



Katy Perry

understood, but I was like, ‘How dare you?’ in a way.”

Twitter



@SteveMartinToGo

Football players are such weenies. I'm injured all the time while writing, yet I continue.



@ParisHilton

I am so horrified that someone would hire a plane to fly over Paul Walker's crash site with messages from me. So disrespectful.



@KellyOsbourne

Lets play a game #WordsThatDriveYouNuts ok here is a good one 'moist.' Moist is a awful word! Just say it... Moist! AHHHHHHHH!!! YOUR TURN!



Bradley Cooper

Suki stays
(sort of) silent
about celeb
squeeze

Bradley Cooper and girlfriend Suki Waterhouse made their first official appearance together as a couple at the American Hustle premiere party in New York this weekend, according to TMZ. While they've been spotted out and about before, both have worked hard to keep mum about the relationship “because it's boring,” Waterhouse recently told Elle U.K. “I'm not one of those girls who goes on about their boyfriends. I do think whatever I say will sound weird. But the truth is, if I start talking about him, I probably won't be able to stop.”



Courteney Cox

B-lister
brings beau
to Bel Air

It looks like Courteney Cox may have found some new romance for the holidays with Snow Patrol's Johnny McDaid, according to Life & Style. McDaid accompanied Cox to Jennifer Aniston's Bel Air holiday party in November and wasn't shy about her feelings.

“Courteney definitely looked like she was on a date,” a source says. “They were holding hands during the party.” Cox's ex-husband, David Arquette, let slip during a chat with Howard Stern on Oct. 31 that she was dating someone new after splitting from Cougar Town co-star Brian Van Holt. “She's with someone who loves and cares for her,” Arquette said. “That's all I care about.”

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You'll love this Cancun resort to the Moon and back

Sun and fun. Winter's icy grip is upon us, might we suggest beaches and bubbly?

GINA ANGELOTTI
Metro World News in New York

Moon Palace Cancun is a sprawling all-inclusive waterfront resort minutes from Cancun International Airport. Divided into three sections — Sunrise, Nizuc and Grand — each has its own character, landscape, demographic, restaurants and amenities. Once you put on a guest bracelet at check-in, you're not only given access to these "phases," which while walkable are connected by a lobby-to-lobby bus service, but you're also allowed to visit other Palace properties in the region. With seemingly limitless entertainment and dining options, the real party in Cancun happens here.

As the bellman explained the extensive features of our deluxe room at Grand, it became apparent that this resort was built with newlyweds in mind. With an in-room jacuzzi — standard for all suites — and a furnished patio, our accommodations were quite large for a single person.

But it wasn't long before we took advantage of the cavernous marble shower, swim-suited up and set out for sunshine. While climbing stairs that led to the nearest pool, we almost stepped on one of dozens of sunbathing iguanas that would appear over three days.



Enjoy a cocktail by one of the resort's beautiful pools. PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED/MOON RESORT



Bored of the beach? Try your hand at the golf course.

Outstretched in a chaise under the shade of palm fronds and umbrellas, the heat was welcome. There were more chairs embedded in a shallow shelf of water along the pool's perimeter, and these prime seats were often occupied.

But when the water gets to be too much, guests will be happy to know that Moon Palace has a spa, two salons and

daily yoga in an on-site meditation garden.

Even though it briefly rained each day, the side effects were positive: The loudest guests — mostly families — abandoned the deck, and the ocean breeze rolled in to whip our paperbacks' pages and the napkins under our cocktails du jour.

Wash, rinse, repeat: We pool-hopped like this for the

rest of the trip.

One afternoon at the Sunrise pool's coal-fired pizza oven, two newlyweds chit-chatted with other guests in line.

An older woman advised the couple, "It only gets better." Smiling, the husband of the pair responded: "We've been here three days and each one has gotten better."

Just beyond these pools is the quieter beachfront. Although a hefty bit of seaweed clutters the otherwise sea glass-green waters — not on par with the Mayan Riviera's reputation for pristine beaches — the sandbars are the glorious temperature of bathwater and the sand itself is the softest we've bared our feet for.

Each time we walked the shoreline between the phases, we shuffled through heart after heart etched in the sand. We eventually caved and drew one, too.

"Have you ever been kissed by a Mexican?" asked

For the kids

- While there are hoards of honeymooners — Moon Palace hosts more than a thousand weddings annually — the resort is actually bursting at the seams with families. The appeal is as strong for the under-18 set as it is for grown-ups. Parents relax poolside while their kids roam independently with minimal risk, and vice-versa. Plus, the all-inclusive element means that, cost-wise, parents don't need to utter the dreaded word "no" very often. Kids seem elated; adults look relieved.

Miguel, a trainer at Moon Palace's own dolphinarium, where guests get a show and a wet smooch from one of eight bottlenose dolphins. A professional photographer on hand means that guests take home a souvenir portrait that's a step up from a smartphone selfie.

On the last evening of the trip, we had an unexpectedly exceptional meal at Los Tacos.

At the poolside snack bar, surrounded by a ring of romantic canopied beds and mangroves, a flirtatious waiter brought to our table a heaping plate of nachos that we didn't actually order. But it didn't matter, because the tortilla chips swimming in cheese, grilled pork and pineapples were as gratifying as the tumbler of Dos Equis we washed them down with.

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On a sunny day, when the Grand Canal is a sparkling ribbon of aquamarine embossed with boats ancient and modern, Venice can steal your heart. And it can do a number on your wallet, too. Knocking back a Bellini at the Hemingway haunt of Harry's Bar will cost you. And taking a gondola ride? You don't want to know how much. But here are five things to do in La Serenissima — as the serene city is sometimes called — that don't cost a dime, or a pound of flesh.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The Square

Centrally located, St. Mark's Square — Piazza San Marco — is lined with shops and restaurants and is a must-see. Go early or late to avoid the worst crowds. You can go into the church for free, although there are fees to see the museum and other areas. Completely free: window shopping, people-watching and posing for selfies.

5

Free things in Venice



The Bridges

Venice is brimming with bridges. The Rialto, a stone arch lined with shops that crosses the Grand Canal at about the halfway point, is the most famous. The Academy Bridge — Ponte dell' Accademia — between the Campo di San Vidal and Campo della Carita, also offers great views of the Grand Canal.



The Ghetto

The word ghetto originated in Venice where a gated part of the city was designated as the Jewish quarter from the 16th century until 1797. A commonly cited explanation is that the word stems from an Italian word "getto" associated with an old foundry in the area. A bas relief sculpture by Arbit Blatas in the main square — Campo di Ghetto Nuovo in the Cannaregio district — commemorates the deaths of Venetian Jews killed in the Second World War.



The Basilica

The Basilica di Santa Maria della Salute — St. Mary of Health — was built after an outbreak of the plague in 1630. Its ornate dome is a feature of the city skyline. Works inside include art by Tintoretto and Titian. Located in the Dorsoduro district, across the Grand Canal from St. Mark's; take the No. 1 water bus to the Salute stop. Open 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. most days.



The Music Museum

Classical music enthusiasts will enjoy the Museum of Music — Museo della Musica — a collection of instruments from the 17th to 19th centuries. The museum is in the Church of St. Maurizio, about a 15-minute walk from St. Mark's Square, and celebrates Venice's history as a centre of instrument making. Open daily 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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Metro's travel myth busting

Travel myths are like urban legends — there are lots of them and nobody really knows how they got started. Luckily, Metro's resident travel expert Loren Christie is here to set the record straight.



ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Want to fly first class? Just ask!



Myth: Ask nicely and you'll get upgraded to first class.

Reality: Sorry, you need more than manners to get seated with the pretty people. When it comes to upgrades, loyalty pays. With cost structures and loyalty programs in place, airlines reserve upgrades to first class to a very select few, such as passengers cashing in program points and higher-tier frequent fliers.



Travel deal Tuesdays

Myth: Tuesdays are the best days to buy airfare.

Reality: Historically, many airlines released fare sales on Tuesdays, which has led to this best day to buy myth, but the Internet jolted this pattern. When you fly is far more important than when you buy. Try flexible-dates shopping to determine when you can get the very best deal and go at mid-day and other off-peak business travel hours.

Calm down, it's just a card!

Myth: Your hotel key card can be used to steal your identity.

Reality: A hotel key card never has your personal information, such as your name, photo, or credit card number, attached to it. Even after you've checked out of the hotel, nobody can use it to pull any personal data. If you lose your hotel key card during your stay, you're simply locked out of your room. The misplaced card is simply deactivated and becomes useless.



Being late to the party pays

Myth: Booking at the last minute gets you the best deals.

Reality: More often than not, travellers will pay a premium if they choose to book an airline ticket at the very last minute. You should try to book your airfare at least 21 days in advance. For hotels, you could get a good deal last minute but it is all about the supply and demand; there is no secret formula. There are some deals to be had by booking a last minute, prepackaged vacation, as long as you are flexible on the actual destination.

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Gone fishin' — in a tiny, frozen Quebec town

Put the cod on ice.
River turns into a town
of fishing huts when
the temperature drops

A fish tale that began 75 years ago has turned a small Quebec town into an international winter destination.

Today, Sainte-Anne-de-la-Perade boasts that it's the world capital for tommycod fishing as it welcomes tens of thousands of visitors annually.

As the story goes, it began in 1938, when a local grocer went out on the nearby Sainte-Anne River to cut up blocks of ice which he would put into boxes to keep his meat refrigerated.

When he cut through the ice, he noticed small codfish in the river. The word spread and fishing huts soon began springing up every winter, turning part of the river into a small village on ice.

During the early days, because roads were closed during the winter, people came by train to fish and scoop up the tommycod, also known as tomcod. Horse-drawn sleigh carriages were used to bring the eager visitors to the fishing chalets.

Steve Massicotte, a town councillor and president of the Sainte-Anne River Outfitters Association, says the wood-heated chalets were originally quite small.

"In the beginning, there were chalets that could accommodate four, six, up to a maximum of eight people," he said in an interview.

"Since the '80s, we have chalets that can accommodate 25 to 30 people."

Massicotte says 500 fishing huts are now set up each winter along one-and-a-half kilometres of the Sainte-Anne River and that more than 80,000 eager tourists drop by every year to enjoy the winter fishing.

In one period, during the 1950s and '60s, as many as 1,200 tiny chalets covered the ice on the river. The tommycod fishing season officially starts on Dec. 26 and runs until Feb. 16. Ste-Anne-de-la-Perade is located between

Montreal and Quebec City, about a 25-minute drive east of Trois-Rivieres.

"People come from everywhere in the world to fish," Massicotte said, noting that along with Europeans and Russians, much of the clientele comes from China and elsewhere in Asia.

"People find it magical, just to be able to walk on a river," he added.

For Massicotte, it's almost like shooting fish in a barrel.

"The small fish actually arrive at the beginning of December and there are about 800 million that enter the Sainte-Anne River and leave at the end of February," he said.

Fishing lines hang from the ceiling of the hut and drop into an ice hole that's 30 centimetres wide.

Each person has two or three lines to watch and as many as a dozen people can fish at a time. They can reel in between 150 and 250 fish in 10 hours.

"There's no permit needed and no limit to what can be taken," Massicotte said. "People in the cabins can sometimes get 200, 300, 500 fish."

It costs \$28 per person for adults to fish on weekends and \$25 during the week. It's half-price for children 6-12 and free for kids five and under.

Massicotte says finding lodgings nearby should not be a problem. But he cautions to reserve ahead of time.

"We have local inns, small bed-and-breakfasts, where people can reserve rooms and we also have hotels and motels that are situated nearby at Trois-Rivieres and St-Marc-Des-Carrieres," he added.

"It's important to make reservations because we know that between 80,000 and 100,000 people come through, so places are limited."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"People come from everywhere in the world to fish."

Town councillor Steve Massicotte



Sainte-Anne-de-la-Perade welcomes tens of thousands of visitors each year to fish in the Sainte-Anne River. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Networking's network. Another acquaintance has added you on LinkedIn, but you're still not sure what the whole site is about. Here's a crash course on this computer-based career consultant

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LinkedIn is a great tool for researching prospective careers, building your network and reaching out and connecting with people

This should be an entirely professional social media tool, so keep your personal

life out of it — it should function as an online resumé and professional networking tool.

It takes some time and effort to create a great LinkedIn account, but if you do it right, it will certainly help you in connecting with the right people and getting a job.

Here are some tips on how to set up an effective LinkedIn profile:

Getting started

Get a professional headshot done. You want to be dressed in business attire and looking sharp. This is about creating a positive and professional image — think about what message your photo sends about you and whether it fits with your career goals.

Take time to write a clear, concise and compelling summary statement. Tailor it to what your target audience will be interested in knowing

Fine-tuning

- Customize your profile URL — go to your profile, click on Edit, click on Manage Public Profile Settings, on the right hand side of that page, click on Customize your public profile URL. This allows you to create a shorter URL that looks better and more professional on contact cards and resumes.
- Carefully proofread your entire profile. Then, have at least one or two other people look over your profile; ask them to give you feedback on whether it is clear and accurate.

about you. Be sure to include key words, industry-specific



Commit to regularly updating and improving your LinkedIn profile: this way you won't neglect it. ISTOCK

lingo and job-specific skills so that it is easily searchable.

Create an effective and informative professional headline.

This helps people to understand, in just a few words, who you are and what your skills are.

Filling it in

Join groups that relate to your career interests and industries. Being involved in groups can help you to connect with people that you

might not otherwise interact with. Add industry relevant skills to your profile. Once you have added these skills, start endorsing others for the skills that they possess. This will, in turn, result in others endorsing you.

Similar to endorsements, the process of getting recommendations is founded in reciprocity.

If you want others to write a recommendation for you, first write a recommendation for them. Take time to write

serious and thoughtful recommendations, as they are also a reflection of you.

When you write a recommendation for someone else, they are then prompted to return the favour and write one for you.

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Whether you're in an unfamiliar country or steps from home, there are five steps to take if you want to turn a conversation into an opportunity:

Be an awesome listener

Finding opportunities is an active process, just like networking, applying to jobs or marketing yourself in an interview.

However, all of these steps start with good listening skills. You can't learn without new information and you can't acquire any if you're talking about yourself.

Maintain eye contact, acknowledge information with body language and ask follow-up questions based on the in-



Know who you are, what you stand for and what value you bring to the table. Having a clear sense of your personal brand gives you confidence to display your strengths, talk about your experience and demonstrate your value. ISTOCK

formation you've just heard.

Test your listening skills by thinking about a recent conversation. You'll probably find that it's much easier to recall what you said than what you heard. Get practicing!

Develop curiosity

When you travel, you ask and answer a lot of questions.

There's nothing wrong with that, because questions are a simple and easy way to get

to know someone. However, when you're looking for an opportunity, you want to ask questions that will spark meaningful conversation.

A question is an invitation to engage, so while you're busy not talking, you should be coming up with questions to ignite interest in your conversation partner and build engagement. At the end of the day, great questions sprout from your genuine curiosity and fascination — so questions are a way for you to radiate authenticity and drive a conversation.

Take cues from your conversation partner. If they seem bored with broad questions, get more specific. If you feel lost, don't be afraid to let them choose the next topic.

Be a problem detector

If you listen carefully and pose engaged questions, you will soon find yourself immersed in a lively discussion.

Once you've moved beyond questions and answers, your conversation partner will likely share things they wouldn't have disclosed to you a handful of minutes earlier — not secrets

or confidential information, but personal feelings about challenges they're facing or areas of particular interest that they'd like to develop.

Identify problems by listening for hints, remarks or statements like:

"I wish I could ... " "The problem is ... " "I'm not sure how to ... "

When these statements come up, dig deeper to understand the underlying problem and ask yourself how your skills could help address the issue at hand. Sometimes, your help can be an anecdote, a story or information from an article you read. At other times,

the solution may just be YOU. Then, it's on to step four.

Don't get discouraged if you can't identify a problem right away. Concentrate on acquiring more information and asking good questions.

Follow up fearlessly

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This winter, Algonquin College's Centre for Continuing and Online Learning will be offering the following programs:

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- Construction Project Management
- Early Childhood Education Administration
- Emergency Management
- Event Management
- Forensic Accounting and Fraud Investigations
- Human Resources Management
- Performance Coaching
- Registered Nurse - Critical Care Program
- Registered Nurse - Perioperative Nursing
- Teachers of English as a Second/ Foreign Language
- Technical Writer
- Victimology
- Working with Dementia Clients - Multidiscipline

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LA CITÉ
LE COLLÈGE D'ARTS APPLIQUÉS
ET DE TECHNOLOGIE

CONSUMERS COVET CARDS

With the holiday shopping season in full swing, the Retail Gift Card Association (RGCA) recently released the results of the Holiday Gift Card Trend Tracker Survey, which examines how consumers plan to give and receive gift cards from retail locations this holiday season. The results, based on responses from nearly 3,000 consumers, reveal ways that retailers can best capitalize on consumer's continued satisfaction with the products.

According to the survey, 74 per cent of respondents plan to give one or more gift cards this holiday season, and nearly 30 per cent surveyed noted they planned on giving five or more gift cards.

Overall, the number of gift cards consumers plan to purchase as gifts this year increased by 71 per cent, according to survey results.

"There is no longer a question that retail gift cards are the most coveted gift to give and get during the holidays, but consumers are being more deliberate about which cards they purchase, with 73 per cent spending less on holiday spending than they did last year," says Jennifer

Tramontana, spokesperson for the Retail Gift Card Association. "This survey shows ways that retailers can compete for savvy consumer dollars by adding holiday promotions and offering online and mobile gift card options such as e-gift codes."

Additional insights from the survey include:

- Gift cards drive store traffic — 78 per cent of consumers plan to spend their cards at the retailer's brick and mortar location.
- Restaurants and department stores will benefit most from gift card promotion this holiday — consumers are most likely to give cards from these types of retailers (57 per cent plan on giving a restaurant gift card this year), and they most want to receive cards from these businesses as well (60 per cent hope for a department store gift card).
- Convenience and practicality drive the decision to give gift cards — 79 per cent of consumers give gift cards because they know the recipient can purchase what they want, and 70 per cent give them for convenience.

- Consumers are embracing more online and mobile options — 56 per cent planned to stay home and shop on Cyber Monday, and 83 per cent like the option to send physical gift cards or e-codes.
- Promotions drive gift cards sales — 17 per cent of consumers wait for a promotion before buying a gift card, and 23 per cent almost always look for promotions at competing retailers before deciding where to buy a gift card.

— Metro
News
Services



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carte-cadeau*

ONE GIFT, INFINITE POSSIBILITIES NAC GIFT CARDS

One gift outperforms all others this holiday season. With hundreds of performances on stage at the NAC and Contemporary Canadian Cuisine at Le Café, the NAC gift card you buy for that special someone this holiday season is sure to put a smile on their face.

Exciting live performances include The

Hockey Sweater NAC Orchestra TD Family Adventures series, English Theatre's comedy Kim's Convenience, The National Ballet of Canada's Swan Lake, NAC Presents David Myles, Brahms' Third Symphony NAC Orchestra — Air Canada Ovation Series, and many, many more.

You can buy NAC gift cards online at nac-cna.ca/giftcards. For a full listing of NAC performances, visit nac-cna.ca.

FEEL THE SPIRIT OF GIVING AT RIDEAU CENTRE

As the holidays draw closer, Ottawa's premier shopping destination takes on new levels of hustle, bustle and excitement. Rideau Centre is primed and primped for the holidays, says general manager Cindy VanBuskirk.

"Our decor is up, Santa Claus is here, most stores are running special promotions and the whole atmosphere is charged with anticipation," she says. "Once you walk in the door, you can really feel the spirit of giving that makes this time of year so wonderful and magical."

To help shoppers celebrate the spirit of the season, Rideau Centre is offering several opportunities for charitable giving. Proceeds from the gift-wrapping service, for instance, will support the Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind. This service is available through Dec. 24 at Holiday Headquarters in Eaton Court on the second level, across from Santa's Castle. Photos with Santa are also available with a minimum donation of \$5 to The Snowsuit Fund.

For nearly three decades, Rideau Centre has hosted the top names in fashion, beauty, accessories, electronics, entertain-



CONTRIBUTED

ment and more. While it is the region's largest shopping centre — with more than 150 stores — Rideau Centre is also a major hub of social activity due to its prime location. Set prominently in the heart of Ottawa, steps from such historic venues as Parliament Hill, the Rideau Canal

and the ByWard Market, Rideau Centre is a popular destination for people from across the region and around the world. It houses an official Ottawa Tourism Information Centre and regularly hosts fashion shows and other special events.

To ensure that customers get the

PERFECT GIFT IDEA

Give the gift they deserve — a Cadillac Fairview SHOP! CARD®. The cards are available in any amount between \$5 and \$500 and can be purchased at the customer service centre (third level next to Zara).

service they deserve, Rideau Centre maintains a number of amenities, including stroller and wheelchair loans, coat and parcel check, family washrooms, a nursing room, parking for 1,400 vehicles and round-the clock security. In December, though, a swirl of smiling faces transforms the Rideau Centre into a warm, thriving hall of holiday cheer.

Rideau Centre has experienced a major revitalization and expansion to reinforce its position as Ottawa's premier shopping destination. As work progresses, you may experience some minor inconveniences. They will do their best to minimize any disruption and appreciate your support and patience. The results will be worth it.

HOLIDAY GIFT CARDS

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING

A man and a woman in formal attire (a man in a dark suit and a woman in a teal dress) are standing in front of a large, stylized 'HOLIDAY BEST' sign. The sign is made of red and green letters on a white background.

SHOP RIDEAU CENTRE FOR THE BEST IN HOLIDAY GIFTS AND FASHION

Extended Holiday Shopping Hours

Monday to Saturday,
9:30 AM - 9 PM
Sunday, 10 AM - 6 PM

Santa Photos

Saturday and Sunday,
11 AM - 1 PM and 2 PM - 4 PM
Visit Santa in Eaton Court and have
your photo taken for \$5. All proceeds
donated to the Snowsuit Fund.

RIDEAU CENTRE
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Lose the bread, add chicken but keep all the delicious flavours of a BLT



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No, it's not a sandwich but a delicious salad with all the ingredients except for the bread. I don't often use iceberg lettuce, but it goes so well in this salad.

You can prepare the salad early in the day and dress just before serving.

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F.
2. Combine the milk and egg

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup 2% milk
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup panko crumbs or unseasoned dry bread crumbs
- 2 tbsp grated Parmesan cheese
- pinch of salt and pepper
- 8 oz boneless chicken breast
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 2 oz prosciutto
- 1 large iceberg lettuce cut into 6 wedges
- 1/2 cup feta cheese
- 1/2 cup diced tomatoes
- 2/3 cup light ranch dressing (store bought)

in one bowl. Combine the panko, Parmesan, and salt and pepper in another bowl.

3. Dip the chicken breast in the egg mixture, then the panko mixture.

4. Heat a small skillet until hot. Add the oil and sauté the chicken breast just until browned on both sides, about 2 minutes per side. Place in a 400 F oven and bake for 10 minutes, until the temperature reaches 165 F or until it's no longer pink. Let cool, then slice thinly.

Nutritional information

Per serving

- **Calories.** 220
- **Carbohydrates.** 11.5 g
- **Fibre.** 0.7 g
- **Protein.** 17.3 g
- **Total fat.** 10 g
- **Saturated fat.** 3.5 g
- **Cholesterol.** 78 mg

5. Meanwhile, in a small skillet, cook the prosciutto until crisp (about 5 minutes). Dice and sprinkle over the lettuce wedges and sprinkle with the crumbled feta and tomatoes. Add chicken.

6. Pour the dressing over top.
THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN

BLT Salad



This recipe serves six. MIKE MCCOLL, FROM THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Drink of the Week

Sapphire In a Pear Tree

This drink, inspired by the 12 Days of Christmas, is perfect for holiday parties.

- 1 1/2 oz Bombay Sapphire gin
- 1/2 oz Disaronno amaretto
- 2 oz pear nectar
- 3/4 oz fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 oz maple syrup
- 1 rosemary sprig and cranberries for garnish

Starting from bottom of rosemary sprig, remove approximately two thirds of leaves. Crush leaves to release aroma. Add, along with all other ingredients, into cocktail shaker. Add ice and shake well. Strain into highball glass filled with fresh ice. Garnish with rosemary sprig and cranberries.

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SOME KIDS
WILL BE OPENING
THIS CHRISTMAS
MORNING**

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Kicking it old school: Retro Ham Salad



These sandwiches make a great addition to a sandwich tray for an old-fashioned tea party.

1. In bowl, stir ham, cheese, pickles, mayonnaise, green onions, capers and mustard.

2. Lay three slices of bread

Ingredients

- 6 oz (175 g) Black Forest ham, chopped
- 1 cup (250 ml) PC World of Flavours Canadian Triple Cheddar Shredded Cheese Blend
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) chopped dill pickles
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) minced green onions
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped drained capers
- 1 tsp (5 ml) Dijon mustard
- 1 pkg (250 g) PC Tramezzini White Crustless Bread

flat on work surface. Using rolling pin, slightly flatten one slice. Divide ham salad among the three slices, including the flattened one. Using back of spoon, spread ham mixture evenly over slices. Top each un-flattened slice with another slice of bread and cut into small squares to make little sandwiches. Starting at short end, roll flattened slice of bread up into a coil and slice crosswise to make pinwheel sandwiches. Arrange pinwheel and little sandwiches on a platter.

COURTESY PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

UFC

St-Pierre to announce future plans on Friday

Georges St-Pierre will shed light on his future later this week in Quebec City.

There has been a question mark hanging over the UFC welterweight champion since his win over No. 1 contender Johny Hendricks last month at UFC 167. St-Pierre said after the fight that he needed time away from his sport.

St-Pierre, currently on vacation in Dubai, confirmed by text to The Canadian Press that he will be announcing his future Friday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Sochi Olympics

Russia plans to set up designated protest zones

IOC president Thomas Bach said Russia will set up public protest zones in Sochi during the Winter Olympics, a move unlikely to defuse criticism of the country's human-rights record and a recent law banning gay "propaganda."

Bach said the Russians would establish specially designated zones for "people who want to express their opinion or want to demonstrate for or against something."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Figure skating

Hip injury derails a Lysacek repeat

Evan Lysacek will not defend his Olympic figure-skating title in Sochi because of a torn labrum in his left hip.

After two months of aggressive treatment, doctors told the American last week the injury was not going to improve and he was risking permanent damage if he kept training.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Sens make stop in basement to face suffering Sabres

Senators goaltender Robin Lehner keeps an eye on an incoming puck as Sabres left-winger Matt Moulson attempts a deflection on Tuesday night in Buffalo. The Sabres entered the game with a 6-22-2 record, easily the worst in the NHL. The Senators, who were coming off a 5-4 shootout win over the Flyers on Monday night, were aiming to hand the Sabres their fourth straight loss. For the result, and full story, go to metronews.ca.

GARY WIEPERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL gives Shanahan a pat on the back

Player safety. Board of governors pleased with state of discipline

The salary cap is going up and business is booming, but still the NHL often gets the most attention for ugly stuff that happens on the ice.

Ugly was front and centre Saturday night during the Boston Bruins-Pittsburgh Penguins game that led to two suspensions and three players on the injured list. But instead of expressing concern over Shawn Thornton and James Neal, the league's board of governors gave vice-president

of player safety Brendan Shanahan a thumbs-up for his handling of discipline.

"I believe the sense of the room is that Brendan Shanahan and the department of player safety has the confidence of the board of governors. He certainly has my confidence," commissioner Gary Bettman said. "It's about modifying an element of the game's culture and we think we've made positive, dramatic steps forward."

When Thornton is suspended following an in-person hearing Friday, it will be the 19th ban this season that costs players at least one regular-season game. The first 18 suspensions added up to 77

games, including Neal's five for kneeing Brad Marchand in the head.

But Shanahan told the board Tuesday that among roughly 55,000 hits over the course of a year, only 50 to 100 are problematic. General managers have noticed a major change over time.

"You're not going to rid yourself of suspensions and what have you, but we've certainly come so much farther," Nashville Predators GM David Poile said. "I mean, look where we were. I've been around for a long time, and some of the stuff that happened in the so-called old days, to where we are now, it's so much better for the players and a so much

Sticking with 30

Commissioner Gary Bettman reiterated the league has no official expansion plans in the offing.

- If the NHL listens and decides to move forward with expanding at some point in the near future, Quebec City, Seattle and Toronto figure to be the front-runners. But Bettman insisted there's no ranking of potential cities.

better game."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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AJAC's historical missteps?

Former winners. Let's go back in time and see the good and not-so-good victors

The trouble with car-of-the-year awards is that they recognize fetching lines, nifty engineering and value for money, but fail to take into account the one factor shoppers say is paramount to their decision: reliability.

As AJAC names its finalists for the 2014 Canadian car and utility vehicle of the year, we thought it would be instructive to look back at previous winners, in five-year increments, to see how they fared in the real world. Do our esteemed jurists end up picking the best vehicles for hard-working Canadians? You be the judge.

2010: VW Golf GTI

Volkswagen bookends our retrospective with two disparate generations of the worldly, front-drive Golf. The sixth-gen Golf, introduced in 2010, was a masterful reworking of the Mk5 car that landed here in 2006. The body was finessed with an angle grinder to make it more aerodynamic, while the cabin furnishings were raised to near-Audi standards. The GTI inherited Golf's three- and five-door hatch configurations, but with some tuned suspension bits and wicked alloy wheels shod with low-profile rubber. Owners of pre-2010 GTIs did report several minor problems, but VW must have ironed out the bugs; the newest generation appears problem free.

2005: Ford Mustang

To mark the 40th anniversary of Lee Iacocca's groundbreaking Mustang, Ford put stylist J Mays on the job to cast the new coupe and convertible as "retro-future" iterations of the original. By adopting the rear-drive chassis of the Lincoln LS — but with a solid rear axle to keep costs down — the car gained a stiff platform to promote adept handling. Assembled at the Ford-Mazda plant in Michigan, the Mustang benefitted from Japanese-quality controls. Still, there were some unsettling problems revealed by owners, including faulty manual transmissions and rear differentials, fueling issues, faulty emergency brakes, short-lived batteries, bad V8 throttle-position sensors and interior rattles.

2000: Ford Focus

With its avant-garde styling and premium materials, the



THE 2010 VW GOLF GTI, ALL PHOTOS TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ford Focus aspired to be more than just an econobox. And it came in lots of flavours: a four-door sedan, five-door wagon, three-door hatchback and, later, a five-door hatch. Every model was a ball to drive, thanks to its tight platform and sophisticated suspension geometry. The Focus got off to a rocky start in terms of reliability. Owners' mailboxes filled up with recall notices, and the cars exhibited mechanical glitches such as fast-wearing brakes, wheel-bearing failures, broken transmissions and ignition switches, faulty air conditioners, bad fuel pumps and numerous electrical problems. The quality improved in newer models.

1995: Plymouth/Dodge Neon

When Chrysler unveiled its compact Neon to much fanfare in early 1994, the car was an instant hit, with its cheeky design, vivid colours and friendly pricing. What differentiated the Neon from other econoboxes was its "cab-forward" architecture, which shoved the wheels out to the corners. Available in two- and four-door forms, stylists made one misstep by specifying frameless windows, which invited plenty of wind noise. As owners started racking up mileage, however, the Neon's lustre faded. It was plagued by head-gasket failures, faulty transmissions, air-conditioning woes and engines that leaked.

1990: Nissan 300ZX

The redesigned Nissan 300ZX graced a lot of lists: Car and Driver named it a 10 Best every year it was sold, while Automobile called it one of the 100 greatest cars of all time and amongst the most beautiful. Being one of the first production cars to be developed entirely by computer-aided design, it's a wonder studios still



Ford has fixed the problems of the popular 2000 Focus.



The 2005 Ford Mustang had looks and power but also some faults.

order clay in bulk. In addition to the two-seater hatchback, there was an extended four-seater model and a convertible. Beneath its comely lines, the 300ZX was powered by two versions of a 3.0-L V6: naturally aspirated, it made 222 hp, while the twin-turbo firebrand put out 300 hp. The Z bristled with technology, including active rear-wheel steering to aid handling. Despite the complex machinery, the Japanese-built 300ZX proved to be an exceptionally reliable sports car.

1985: VW Golf/Jetta

AJAC's very first Car of the

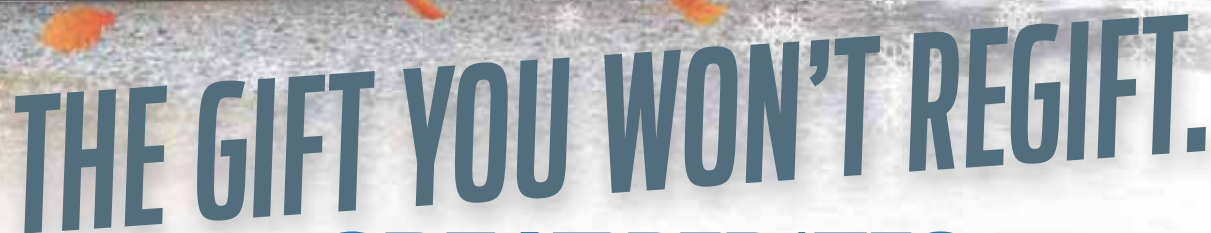
Year Award went to the Golf and Jetta, two peas of the same Volkswagen pod. The year marked the introduction of the second-generation models, which had grown substantially in size and heft. Interestingly, the Golf was assembled in Pennsylvania, while the Jetta was imported from Germany. The cars were tightly constructed and well-balanced, delivering a gratifying driving experience in an econobox wrapper. Unfortunately, both cars were riddled with electrical and drivetrain issues. Fuel pumps were notorious for dying, and fuel injectors were fragile. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

The process of election

- **AJAC finalists and runners up.** Mazda, Kia and General Motors lead the way in the battle to be named Canada's 2014 car or truck of the year. The Automobile Journalists Association of Canada announced its 12 finalists for the awards last week, including three Mazda vehicles, and two each from Kia and GM. In October, a group of 80 AJAC journalists test drove 174 new vehicles during a week-long series of trials in Niagara Falls. AJAC's annual Test Fest evaluates all new or redesigned vehicles in each of 12 categories on the same day, over the same route, including a high-speed test circuit and/or a simulated off-road course or cottage road, depending on the type of vehicle. The journalists ranked a wide range of attributes, including design, space, quality, performance, safety, economy and value. Transport Canada fuel consumption figures were also factored in, as was the vehicles' price. Those 12 finalists will now compete to be named AJAC's Car of the Year or Utility Vehicle of the Year, which will be announced on Feb. 13.

12 finalists + runners up

- **Small Car (under \$21k):** Mazda 3
- **Small Car (over \$21k):** Mazda 3 Sport
- **Family Car (under \$30k):** Kia Soul
- **Family Car (over \$30k):** Mazda 6
- **Luxury Car (under \$50k):** Lexus IS 350 RWD
- **Luxury Car (over \$50k):** Infiniti Q50 Hybrid
- **Sports/Performance (\$50k+):** Chevrolet Corvette Stingray
- **Prestige Car (over \$75k):** Mercedes-Benz S Class
- **SUV/CUV (under \$35k):** Jeep Cherokee
- **SUV/CUV (\$35k to \$60k):** Kia Sorento
- **SUV/CUV (\$60k+):** Acura MDX
- **Pickup:** GMC Sierra
- **NOTABLE RUNNERS UP**
 - Nissan Versa Note (small car under 21k),
 - Fiat 500L (family car under 30k)
 - Acura RLX (luxury car over 50k)
 - BMW X5 (SUV 60k+)



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HWY



Price for 2014 Ram 1500 Crew Cab Laramie shown: \$40,190.¹



Price for 2014 Dodge Journey R/T AWD shown: \$34,390.¹

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37 MPG
HIGHWAY

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CANADA'S #1 SELLING CROSSOVER*

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10 WARD'S BEST INTERIORS



Price for 2013 Dodge Dart GT with optional equipment shown: \$23,890.¹



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Based on 2013/2014 EnerGuide highway fuel consumption estimates. Government of Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on powertrain, driving habits and other factors. See retailer for additional EnerGuide details. 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package - Hwy: 7.9 L/100 km (36 MPG) and City: 12.2 L/100 km (23 MPG). 2014 Dodge Journey 2.4 L with 4-speed automatic - Hwy: 7.7 L/100 km (37 MPG) and City: 11.2 L/100 km (25 MPG). 2013 Dodge Dart AERD - Hwy: 4.8 L/100 km (59 MPG) and City: 7.3 L/100 km (39 MPG). Wise customers read the fine print: *, **, *, **, * - \$ The Be Your Own Santa Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating retailers on or after December 3, 2013. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. All pricing includes freight (\$1,595 - \$1,695), air tax (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. *Holiday Bonus Cash of up to \$1,500 is available on most new 2013 Dodge Dart, Ram Heavy Duty trucks and FIAT models (excluding the FIAT 500 Pop and Ram Cab & Chassis) and on most new 2014 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram and FIAT models, excluding the following: Chrysler 200 LX, Dodge Dart, Grand Caravan CVP, Journey CVP/SE, Avenger CVP, Viper, Jeep Compass Sport 4x2/4x4, Patriot Sport 4x2/4x4, Cherokee, Ram 1500 Reg Cab trucks, Ram Cab & Chassis, Ram Cargo Van, Ram ProMaster, FIAT 500 Pop, 500C, 500T and Abarth models. Bonus Cash will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. See your retailer for complete details. **\$10,000 in Total Discounts is available on new 2014 Ram 1500 models (excluding Reg Cab) and consists of \$8,500 in Consumer Cash Discounts and \$1,500 in Holiday Bonus Cash. See your retailer for complete details. *\$19,995 Purchase Price applies to the new 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (29E) and includes \$8,100 Consumer Cash Discount. \$26,295 Purchase Price applies to the new 2014 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (25A+AGR) only and includes \$8,500 Consumer Cash Discount and \$1,500 Holiday Bonus Cash. \$19,995 Purchase Price applies to the new 2014 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F) only and includes \$2,000 Consumer Cash Discount. \$16,495 Purchase Price applies to the new 2013 Dodge Dart SE (25A) only and includes \$500 Holiday Bonus Cash. *Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on select 2013/2014 vehicles and are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. **NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Contest begins November 27, 2013 at 9:00:00 a.m. ET and ends February 28, 2014 at 11:59:59 p.m. ET. Contest open to legal residents of Ontario who have reached the age of majority at the time of entry. One (1) entry per person. To enter, you must visit any participating Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram retailer during the contest period and purchase/finance/lease any new 2012, 2013 or 2014 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge or Ram vehicle (excluding SRT Viper models). Four (4) grand prizes available to be won, each consisting of a pair of VIP tickets and trip to watch the 2014 Battle of Ontario in Ottawa on April 12, 2014. Tickets are for April 12 ONLY. Prize includes round trip travel for two and two night's hotel accommodation (if required). Approx. retail value: \$5,000 per prize. Mathematical skill-testing question required. For complete contest rules, including no purchase means of entry, go to: www.chrysleroffers.ca/battleofontario. \$2014 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew Plus shown. Price includes Consumer Cash Discount. 2014 Ram 1500 Crew Cab Laramie shown. Price includes Consumer Cash Discount and \$1,500 Holiday Bonus Cash. 2014 Dodge Journey R/T AWD shown. Price includes Consumer Cash Discount. 2013 Dodge Dart GT with optional 18-inch hyper black wheels shown. Price includes \$500 Holiday Bonus Cash. **Based on Automotive News classification and 2013/2014 Ram 1500 3.6 L V6 4x2 and 8-speed transmission. 11.4 L/100 km (25 MPG) City and 7.8 L/100 km (36 MPG) Highway. Based on 2013 EnerGuide fuel consumption guide ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. Government of Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on powertrain, driving habits and other factors. Ask your retailer for complete EnerGuide information. *Based on R. L. Polk Canada, Inc. May 2008 to September 2013 Canadian Total New Vehicle Registration data for Crossover Segments as defined by Chrysler Canada Inc. **Based on 2013 Ward's upper small sedan sedan costing under \$25,000. *Real Deals. Real Time. Use your mobile device to build and price any model. *Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC. **The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc.

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♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

If you have not made as much progress as you would have liked on a project, don't worry and certainly don't work even harder. Maybe in future you should set yourself targets you know you will be able to reach.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

If you need to get something finished, step on the gas. Mars in the work area of your chart will boost your energy but you won't get anywhere worth going unless you're motivated.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

If someone asks for your opinion on a personal matter, you will be happy to give it. However, if your sixth sense tells you they won't be happy hearing the truth, maybe you should decline their request.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Feuds and power struggles are best avoided, even if it means you have to go off and be by yourself for a while. Do not, under any circumstances, make the mistake of taking sides.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

You need to get your financial house in order — quickly. Be ruthless with yourself and make sure you know the difference between your needs and your desires. If something is not a necessity, live without it.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Your authority on the work front has slipped a bit and you need to find ways to remind people why they should do what you tell them. Be persuasive but don't be rude.

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

According to the planets this is a good day for personal issues, especially partnerships. In affairs of the heart, you can hardly put a foot wrong at the moment — and a little of what you enjoy will do you good.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You may not be able to rely on certain people as much as you have done recently, but you no longer need them. There is a major luck factor working in your life at the moment.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Make the most of the Sun in your sign to show the world what you are capable of. It's never too late to make an impression or to move up in the world but now it will be easier than other times.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

You may not have made as much progress at work as your talents deserve. But, with Mars moving through the career area of your chart, it won't be long before that changes.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Today, make an effort to read between the lines. What is not being said is likely to be ten times more important than what is being said. Also, watch other people's body language.

♓ Pisces

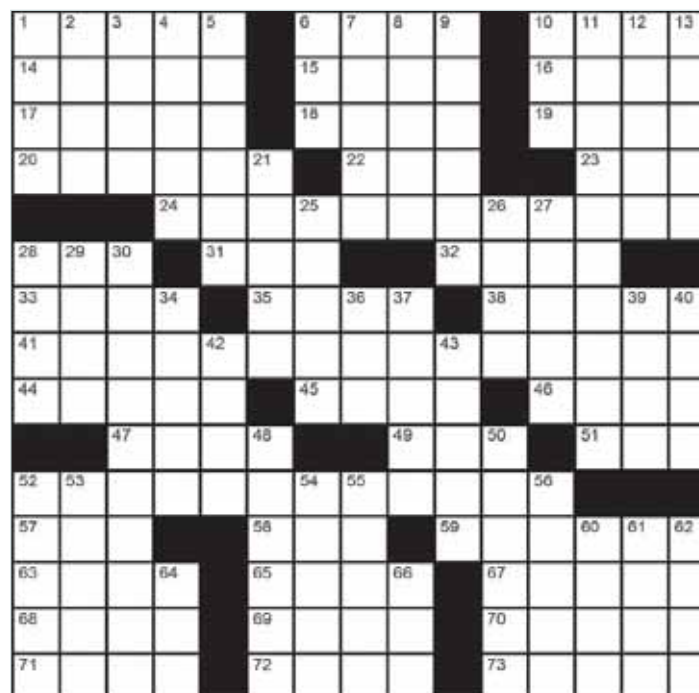
Feb. 20 - March 20

Be decisive today. Think and act fast and don't worry too much about what the consequences might be. Some people may get annoyed but they need to know you're not the sort to be messed around. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

- Fido's warning
- Color Me ___ ('90s boy band)
- Went too fast
- Mr. Spock's virtue
- Wise one
- Taken-back vehicle
- Flooded
- High-hatter
- Pouches
- Canada Goose garments
- As well
- British running great Sebastian
- Items worn by Queen Victoria at The Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto: 2 wds.
- With it
- New Zealand bird
- Blinds strip
- Mr. Redding
- Fashionably 'ready'
- Clear
- John Lennon's handwritten lyrics, etc.: 2 wds.
- ___ socks
- Hydrocarbon suffixes
- Hershey's treat
- Glorify
- Energy
- Sketch show, shortly
- Mount Everest professionals: 2 wds.
- ___ Mahal
- Li'l loudness



Down

- "___ Shot" (1977)
- "And ___ word from our sponsor..."
- Seaweed product
- Hazards
- "To life!" in "Fiddler on the Roof" (1971)
- Microsoft mogul ...his initials-shares
- Some relatives
- Cake-lover's spotting-cake reaction
- Claude __, Montreal-born singer/songwriter
- Grads-to-be, briefly
- They might be held to negotiate a treaty: 2 wds.
- Edmonton high-rise office building, ___ Tower
- Prescription amounts
- Alpine sight
- "Instant ___!" by John Lennon
- Non-royal
- Eiffel Tower's home
- Lively circle dance

- "Lay ___ the Line" by Triumph
- Food preserving containers: 2 wds.
- Broadway composer, Matthew ___
- Long time
- Spectacular coin-collecting fountain in Rome
- Priory of __, in "The Da Vinci Code"
- "My Name Is ___"
- "You Raise ___" by Josh Groban: 2 wds.
- Thespian's line to the audience
- Canadian writer, Robertson __ (b.1913 - d.1995)
- Canadian actress Ms. Ory
- Ms. Katic of "Castle" on ABC
- Ms. McCallion, Mayor of Mississauga, ON since 1978
- Nickname of Gregory Harrison's character on "Trapper John, M.D."
- Extreme
- Chimney's characteristic
- Smidgen
- Ice floes animal
- "___ Breckinridge" (1970)
- Cow's communication
- Furniture wood

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Today

Flurries

60%

Thursday

Flurries

40%

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